

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110997

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY

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FOL REPEAT NAIROBI 4593 ACTION SECSTATE 6 MAY.

QUOTE

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UNCTAD 001

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652; N/A

SUBJECT: UNCTAD IV OPENS IN CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE

1. SUMMARY: ATMOSPHERE OF UNCTAD CONFERENCE APPEARS MODERATE
THUS FAR, AS GROUP OF 77 DELEGATES IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
DISCUSSIONS ARE STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION, RATHER
THAN CONFRONTATION. WHILE SESSION OPENED WITH PHILIPPINE
PRESIDENT MARCOS' LITANY OF THE MANILA DECLARATION (MINUS SOME
ELEMENTS) THE G-77 WERE TAKEN ABACK BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
MAJOR, COMPREHENSIVE SPEECH WHICH PROMPTED G-77 TO RECONSIDER
BASIS FOR FURTHER UNCTAD DISCUSSIONS, FIRST DAY OF INAUGURAL
CEREMONIES AND SPEECHES, MAY 5, WENT FAIRLY SMOOTHLY, DESPITE
SOME POLITICAL

RHETORIC AGAINST CHILE. PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION,
MAY 3-4, WAS HAMPERED BY PROBLEMS WITH AUDIO SYSTEM IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 110997

CONFERENCE HALL, WHICH LED TO CANCELLATION OF PLENARY MEETINGS.

END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECRETARY DOMINATED OPENING OF UNCTAD CONFERENCE WITH HIS MAJOR ADDRESS AT THE FIRST SESSION OF GENERAL DEBATE, MAY 6. (INITIAL REACTIONS REPORTED SEPARATELY). TONE AND CONTENT OF THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH CONVENTIONAL STATEMENTS OF EC-9 SPOKESMAN THORN AND THE DANISH AND SWEDISH MINISTERS WHICH WERE ALSO DELIVERED AT MORNING SESSION.

3. USDEL UNDERSTANDS THAT LUXEMBURG PRIME MINISTER AND EC-9 SPOKESMAN THORN WHO PRECEDED THE SECRETARY, HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED A SHORT SPEECH, BUT LENGTHENED IT WHEN HE HEARD THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD GIVE A MAJOR ADDRESS. HIS 45 MINUTE SPEECH DID NOT CONTAIN NEW PROPOSALS AND GENERALLY REPRESENTED LESS THAN LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR OF EC MEMBERS. HIS PRINCIPAL MESSAGE APPEARED TO BE THAT THE EC-9 IS PREPARED TO EXAMINE FURTHER STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND THE 30TH UNGA.

4. PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT MARCOS, WHO SPOKE FIRST AT THE MAY 6 SESSION, DELIVERED AN ADDRESS THAT WAS RELATIVELY MODERATE IN TONE. PRESENTING THE MANILA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION MARCOS DESCRIBED IT AS A CONDID LISTING OF PROBLEMS WHICH MERIT THE MOST URGENT ATTENTION, AND SAID THE LDC'S SEE JUST AND REASONABLE SOLUTIONS AND ARE NOT ASKING FOR MORE THAN OTHERS CAN GIVE. IN OUTLINING MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE G-77, MARCOS GAVE RELATIVELY LIGHT TREATMENT TO DEBT AND REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN VERY GENERAL TERMS WITHOUT MENTIONING THE ROLE OF UNCTAD.

5. POLITICAL RHETORIC DURING INAUGURAL CEREMONY AND OPENING OF CONFERENCE ON MAY 5 WAS RELATIVELY MILD. THE HEADS OF BULGARIAN, CUBAN, MEXICAN AND ALGERIAN DELEGATIONS MADE STATEMENTS OF REGRET THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN OPENED BY THE HEAD OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF PROCEDURE. BUT DID NOT MENTION THE US IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE CURRENT CHILEAN REGIME. (AS A COMPROMISE, REPORTEDLY ENGINEERED BY THE SECRETARIAT WITH SOVIET SUPPORT. THE CHILEAN WAS ALLOWED TO OPEN THE CONFERENCE ON THE CONDITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 110997

THAT THE PRESIDENT BY ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION, WHICH REDUCED THE PERIOD OF THE TEMPORARY CHILEAN PRESIDENCY TO A FEW MOMENTS.) THIS SCENARIO WAS FOLLOWED BUT BECAUSE OF A FAILURE IN THE AUDIO SYSTEM, NO ONE IN THE VAST CONFERENCE HALL ACTUALLY HEARD THE CHILEAN OPEN THE CONFERENCE, AND THE SOUND WAS NOT RESTORED UNTIL THE NEW PRESIDENT (E.T. MWAMUNGA, KENYAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY) WAS INSTALLED. IN RESPONSE TO THE BULGARIANS AND CUBANS, THE HEAD OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION

MADE A SHORT, RESTRAINED STATEMENT POINTING OUT THAT SUCH RHETORIC WAS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THE PURPOSES OF UNCIAD AND CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A UN MEMBER.

6. A DELEGATE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET-NAM MADE A SHORT STATEMENT OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "THE NEW VIET-NAM WHICH IS HAPPY, FREE AND UNIFIED". ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS WHO DENOUNCED CHILE, THE VIETNAMESE STATEMENT WAS VERY MILD AND DID NOT MENTION THE US.

7. SPEECHES BY SYG WALDHEIM AND UNCTAD SHY COREA TO THE MAY 5 PLENARY CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. WALDHEIM EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING SELF-RELIANCE IN THE THIRD WORLD THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES. IN THE TRADE AREA, HE INDICATED THAT COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE AMONG LDC'S MAY CALL FOR REGIONAL OR INTERREGIONAL PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS "ON TERMS LESS STRINGENT THAN THOSE WHICH ARE FOUND NECESSARY WITHIN PRESENT RULES." IN AN HOUR LONG SPEECH, COREA REITERATED HIS WELL KNOWN VIEWS ON WHAT HE HOPES UNCTAD IV WILL ACCOMPLISH IN TERMS OF DEALING WITH CERTAIN PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK.

8. THE ONLY UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT IN THE OPENING OF UNCTAD IV WAS A LAST MINUTE DECISION BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA NOT TO DELIVER THE WELCOMING SPEECH AT THE MAY 5 INAUGURAL CEREMONY, KENYATTA'S SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY MINISTER OF STATE MBIYU KOINANGE, WHO SIMPLY EXPLAINED THAT KENYATTA WAS UNABLE TO BE THERE.

9. LITTLE WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT THE PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING, MAY 3-4, WHICH WAS PLAGUED BY AUDIO EQUIPMENT FAILURES. BEHIND THE SCENES, THE GROUP OF 77 AND GROUP B ARE STILL ENGAGED IN EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS OVER WHICH GROUPS SHALL HAVE THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AND THE FIVE NEGOTIATING GROUPS. MAJOR ISSUE IS G-77'S EFFORT TO GRAB BOTH CHAIRMANSHIP AND RAPPORTEUR POSITION IN NEGOTIATING GROUP ON FINANCIAL AND DEBT QUESTIONS. THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY TOTAL INCOMPETENCE OF GROUP B COORDINATOR (PUTMAN OF BELGIUM). MARSHALL

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